Approved for Release: 2018/09/17 C06627154

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
CHRGE: PROG 01/27/87
APPRV: AMB:TEGILDRED
DRFTD: POL:JJCARRAGHER:M
CLEAR: DCM:JABUSHNELL
POL:RCFELDER; EA
BERGER
DAO:CNNIELSEN
DISTR: POL3 AMB DCM
ECON SCI USIS
DAO MILGP DEA
EAO RF CHRON

CINCSO AND CINCLANT ALSO FOR INTAFF

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, AR
SUBJECT: SUAREZ MASON ARRESTED

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR RELEASE OF THIS DOCUMENT DATE: 09-14-2018

1. (U) CASHIERED GENERAL CARLOS SUAREZ MASON WAS ARRESTED SOUTH OF SAN FRANCISCO JANUARY 24. HIS ARREST AND SUBSEQUENT COURT APPEARANCE HAVE BEEN WIDELY REPORTED IN ALL THE ARGENTINE PRESS. SUAREZ MASON, A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS, IS WIDELY SEEN AS ONE OF THE MILITARY MOST INVOLVED IN RESPONSIBILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. PRESS REPORTS HERE TAKE HIS EXTRADITION AS A GIVEN.

2. (C) COMMENT: THE ARREST AND RAPID EXTRADITION OF SUAREZ MASON IS IN GOA'S INTEREST BECAUSE IT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP PUBLIC ATTENTION FOCUSSED ON A MILITARY HUMAN RIGHTS PROCESS AT A TIME THE GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING TO LIMIT/PREVENT OTHER INDICTMENTS FROM BEING ISSUED. OUR INITIAL READING IS THAT SUAREZ MASON'S FATE, AS A CASHIERED OFFICER, IS OF LESS CONCERN TO MOST MILITARY THAN WERE EVEN THE JUNTAS OR GENERAL CAMPS. HIS FATE MAY, THEREFORE, BE IRRELEVANT TO THOSE INVOLVED IN THE CENTRAL ISSUE FOR CIVILIAN-MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS, THE HUMAN RIGHTS TRIALS OF ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY. SUAREZ MASON IS ALSO WANTED FOR EMBEZZLING YPF FUNDS UNDER THE JUNTA GOVERNMENT AND WAS ONE OF TWELVE NAMED IN THE GOA'S STATE OF SIEGE DECREE IN 1985. THE GOA SUSPECTS A SUAREZ MASON HAND IN EFFORTS TO DESTABILIZE DEMOCRACY.

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SUAREZ Mason, Carlos

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